

- $\beta^3$
- c. separating any contaminants thus removed from the deaggregated nanoparticulates,
  - d. removing the protective fluid blanket from the decontaminated nanoparticulates using vacuum distillation,
  - e. desorbing the surface of the nanoparticulates by applying a sufficiently high vacuum,
  - f. allowing a predetermined volume of a suitable surfactant to adsorb onto the surface of the said desorbed nanoparticulates such that at most 50% of the nanoparticulates' surface will be coated with a monolayer of said surfactant.
  - g. dispersing said surfactant-coated nanoparticulates in a predetermined volume of a suitable degradable thermoplastic binder to form a homogeneous thermoplastic compound
  - h. shaping said thermoplastic compound into green bodies,
  - i. extracting substantially all of the organic thermoplastic material from said green bodies and sintering the thus obtained organic-free preforms.
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Please cancel claim 7.